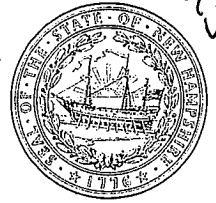




The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner



Tracey W.
fyi

December 30, 2011

Mr. Larry A. Wiggins, P.E.
Public Works Director
Town of Newport
15 Sunapee Street, Suite 1
Newport, NH 03773-1497

Re: Newport, NH - SolarBee Mixers
WWEB Project No. D2011-0801

Dear Mr. Wiggins:

We appreciate the opportunity to visit the Newport WWTF recently, and to meet with you, Superintendent Arnold Greenleaf, and Town Manager Paul Brown to discuss upcoming facility upgrades and effluent toxicity issues.

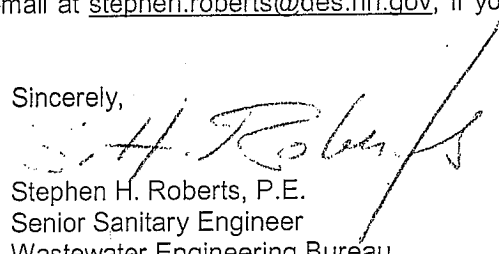
Based on our discussions, and upon DES's review of test data and toxicity analyses conducted to date, it appears the source, nature, and cause of recurrent effluent toxicity in Newport remain inadequately defined and frustratingly elusive. The available information attributes toxicity to, variously: low pH (due to nitrification); elevated ammonia levels; high aluminum concentrations coupled with the release of a toxic polymer; and perhaps others.

The Town recently submitted to DES a pre-application for CWSRF program funds in the amount of \$140,000, to support the purchase and installation of SolarBee surface mixers to address toxicity issues. DES remains unconvinced that surface mixers will effect the desired toxicity reduction, and hence is disinclined to commit limited CWSRF funds toward their purchase and installation. Indeed, mixer installation appears premature and potentially without merit in the absence of an identified cause of toxicity.

We do recommend the Town's continued efforts to identify and address toxicity issues, and remind you that investigatory studies are potentially eligible for DES funding assistance.

Feel free to contact me at the address below, or by e-mail at stephen.roberts@des.nh.gov, if you need further information or clarification regarding this matter.

Sincerely,


Stephen H. Roberts, P.E.
Senior Sanitary Engineer
Wastewater Engineering Bureau

cc: Paul Brown - Town Manager
Stergios Spanos, P.E. - DES/WWEB/Compliance Section

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